

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 17, and 30 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 6, and 21 are canceled.

Claims 1, 17, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,018,720) in view of Tagawa et al. (U.S. Patent 6,834,348) and Kupka et al. (U.S. Patent 6,434,535).

The present claims have been amended to recite "wherein, when said usable remaining amount of money is consumed, the identifier unique to said recording medium stored in the second storage medium is moved to a registration deleted group in the second storage medium to indicate the recording medium has been deleted from registration and is invalid." (Claims 1, 17, and 30) This feature of the present invention is supported at lines 6-15 on page 71 of the specification. In this manner, the present invention can readily identify consumed recording medium by storing their identifiers in a "registration deleted group." Applicants respectfully assert none of the cited references (Fujimoto, Tagawa, or Kupka) discloses an analogous "registration deleted group" containing the identifiers of consumed recording medium.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, the combination of Fujimoto, Tagawa, and Kupka fails to meet all of the limitations of the present invention, and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

Claims 2, 6, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimoto in view of Tagawa,

Kupka and Akiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,745). Claims 2, 6, and 21 have been canceled. Therefore, this rejection is moot.

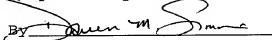
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

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Respectfully submitted,

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